



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-First Annual Tribal Assembly
April 20-22, 2016
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 16-05

Title: Support for a Dedicated Tribal Set-Aside in the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

By: Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP), was initially established to address the need for victim services programs, and to assist governments in providing appropriate services to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Victims of Crimes Act 30 years ago and did not include Indian Tribes in the original distribution of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Fund is financed by collections of fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures from defendants convicted of Federal crimes, but until now, tribes have only been eligible to receive a very small portion of the discretionary funding from the Fund; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives experience the highest crime victimization rates in the country:

- Murder rates of American Indian women on some reservations are ten times the national average.ⁱ
- Nearly 61% of Native women are assaulted during their lifetime. One local study found that 1 in 12 Native women experience violence perpetrated by their husband every year.ⁱⁱ
- Approximately 34% of Native women are raped in their lifetime, and nearly half will experience sexual violence other than rape within their lifetime.ⁱⁱⁱ When Native women are raped, they are more likely to experience other physical violence during the attack, their attacker is more likely to have a weapon, and they are more likely to have injuries requiring medical attention.^{iv}
- Due to exposure to violence, Native children experience post-traumatic stress disorder at a rate of 22%—the same levels as Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and triple the rate of the rest of the population.^v; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs “due to a lack of victim service programs in Indian Country, there often is little or no response to family members of homicide victims, sexual assault victims, child abuse victims, and others”; and

WHEREAS, DOJ officials have recognized the great need to strengthen victims' services on tribal lands and, have proposed dedicated funding to help meet that need; and

WHEREAS, Congress has tripled disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund in the last two years, with disbursements reaching \$3 billion for FY 2016, and has not directed *any* of these funds to tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Indian nations and tribal service providers require essential resources to respond to violence perpetrated against American Indians and Alaska Natives, in particular women and children, as well as to provide services to victims seeking assistance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-First Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 20-22, 2016, does hereby support the increase in the amount of money released from the Crime Victim's Fund to include a dedicated funding stream for Indian Tribes to meet the dire needs of tribal victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska does hereby call for 10% of disbursements from the Crime Victims Fund to be directed to tribal governments in order to fund tribes and tribal government programs and non-profit, non-governmental tribal organizations, located within the jurisdictional boundaries of an Indian reservation, Alaska Native Villages, and Indian Communities and other areas that provide services to Native crime victims; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.


ADOPTED this 22nd day of April 2016, by the Eighty-First Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe

ⁱ *Legislative Hearing on S. 1763, SAVE Native Women Act Before the S. Comm. on Indian Affairs*, 112th Cong. 10 (2011) (statement of Thomas J. Perrelli, Associate Att'y Gen. of the United States), available at <http://www.indian.senate.gov/sites/default/files/upload/files/TranscriptRecord-2.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ R. Bachman, et al, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What is Known," (2008), available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 summary report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2011).

^{iv} R. Bachman, et al, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What is Known," (2008), p. 36, available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf>.

^v Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, at 38, available at, <https://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/task-force-american-indian-and-alaska-native-children-exposed-violence..>